

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
November 12, 2015
City Hall – Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Jon Stehle
Jane Albr
Michael Breslin
Jeff Ferrell
Evie Ifantides

Janet Jaworski
Robert Reinsel
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Michael Slawski

Staff: Cathy Salgado
Kate Johnston

Members Absent

Michael Anderson
Brian Knapp
Harry Wilbur

Guests

Matthew Coyne, Troop 1887 Eagle Scout
Jeff Seffens, Commission on the Arts Team Chairman

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Chairman Jon Stehle.

2/3. Adoption of Agenda & Minutes

Motion made and seconded. Agenda for November 12, 2015 and minutes from October 8, 2015 meeting were approved.

The agenda and minutes were approved.

4. Presentation

a) Matthew Coyne – Proposed Eagle Scout Project

Matthew Coyne, Eagle Scout of Troop 1887, presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to construct an enclosure around the portable toilets at Draper Park. The total estimated cost, excluding concrete and taxes, for the project is \$480.39. Research into requirements for City Code approvals will be required. Matthew plans to work on this project with oversight and assistance by Gregg Tonge, City of Fairfax Parks Manager.

b) Jeff Seffens – Discussion of Public Art

Jeff Seffens, team chairman on the Commission of the Arts, led the discussion on the Public Art Policy and the public art site plan on where public art would be placed within/throughout the City. The Commission has begun creating a list of proposed locations for public art as part of the working draft site plan. Suggested sites include Old Town Square (OTS) and City gateways and thoroughways. The Commission will provide the list of potential locations to PRAB for comments and/or recommendations. Ms. Jaworski introduced the idea of the “LOVE” letters for an art display in the City –

possibly OTS or Van Dyck Park. PRAB members may email suggestions and ideas for the Commission to Chairman Stehle by Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

5. Old Business

a) Green Acres Feasibility Study – Update, Survey Results

Mr. Stehle reported that the group outreach was very useful and the survey was quite successful. In a message from Michael DeMarco, the current list is very broad and they are working to narrow it down very rapidly within the next month. There is an opportunity available for Mr. DeMarco to attend a committee meeting to discuss their list and receive questions and feedback. There is a website available for the study located on the fairfaxva.gov website for more information and documents at <http://fairfaxva.gov/government/community-development-planning/major-projects-plans/green-acres>.

b) OurParksOurFuture.com

Mr. Michael Breslin reports the findings for the outreach through social media such as Facebook. As of September, Parks and Recreation merged their Facebook pages into one department page to include the various event pages, resulting in a significant increase in likes to the page. The big events drive the most activity for the page(s) – Derby-Q, 4th of July and Fall Festival, with their promotions on the couple days preceding the events. The approximate highest number of new likes for a day is about 20 likes. Payment for advertising on Facebook has not been explored yet, so all activity and new likes are considered to be organic.

c) ADA Self-Audit

Mrs. Cathy Salgado reports she met with John Russer at Van Dyck who provided some tips on some small improvements that can help with ADA accessibility but overall thought the park was in fabulous shape. Example improvements could be: additional handicap parking in different areas of the parking lot and signage that says “ADA Accessible Trail”. Mr. Russer does the audits for the Fairfax County school system’s playgrounds and has volunteered to do a thorough of Van Dyck for the City, which the Parks and Recreation Department plans to take up on that offer. Mr. Russer has provided a handbook with his notes in it that the City may use as well. Louise Armitage will be coordinating the ADA reports which are estimated to be made available between January and February.

6. New Business

a) Annual Work Plan

Motion made and seconded. Annual Work Plan for fiscal year 2016 was approved unanimously. It will be submitted to council and placed on the website.

b) CIP Funding – P&R Submission, PRAB Review

Cathy shared the actual CIP submission that included two changes made by the Finance Department – moved the stub streets and purchase of a truck to the general government section of the CIP. Mrs. Salgado and Ms. Johnston are in the process of working on the presentation for council that goes into a specific template for this year, which is planned

to be finished and shared with PRAB members by Thanksgiving. Cathy discusses the format/style for the council presentation template and reports she has categorized all the CIP projects based on the strategic plan. December 1, 2015 will be the Parks and Recreation CIP presentation; however the exact time is TBD.

Question: General description requested for the Providence Elementary School Ball Field – Cathy responds, the department will be conducting an overhaul of the two smaller fields closest to the school which are out to contract and estimated to begin fairly soon. The work should include taking the old sod out, performing some regrading and laying new sod.

New CIP projects have been made bold. PRAB resolutions for CIP will be in December.

Motion made and seconded for PRAB endorsement of the CIP project budget.

d) Paul VI Site – Updates

Draft resolution was sent November 2nd for the future of the community center. Further discussion on Paul VI site is to be had at the December meeting in order to discuss PRAB guidance in looking at Paul VI in relation to Green Acres.

Question: Is City Council's approach to the future of the Paul VI site known at this time? The status for Paul VI is unsure. The Diocese has hired IDI Companies, developer of Mantua, as consultant on what to do with the site and could be the potential buyer as well.

PRAB advises Parks and Recreation stay informed on the future of the Paul VI site and keep an ear to the Community Development and Planning (CD&P) Department. PRAB should be in a position to advise. Mrs. Salgado and Mr. Stehle plan to work on talking points to go over in December. Focus and concern will be not only on what happens with the Paul VI building use, but most importantly the fields and parking for the fields.

e) PRAB Subcommittee

Mike, chairman for subcommittee, tasked with draft charge for subgroup to assist with PRAB scheduling and future updates for Strategic Plan. Subcommittee will be working directly with Mrs. Salgado and staff and briefing PRAB on annual operating rhythm. Goal will be to prepare draft plan around the time of January, 2016.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Changes, New Employees, Updates

Social media section added to back of report, as well as one special event change made.

Kate Johnston has started as new Administrative Assistant, and Katie MacCammon ("Katie Mac") is the new Special Events Assistant. Michael Freeman has started as the new Parks Supervisor; he is a City resident who attended Fairfax High School and has brought a lot of technical skills and knowledge with him to his position.

The pond aerators are in and now separated.

Half of the trees have been put in in Old Town Square and the remaining trees are coming in. Decorating will begin next week, and Sherwood will display decorations on the street side as well as additional decorations this year.

Four staff members attended the VRPS conference from Sunday through Tuesday; staff member Jo Ormesher was a new attendee to the conference.

b) Proposal for Recognition of Armistice Turtora – Van Dyck Park “Bowl” on Council Agenda November 17th

Goal will be to do dedication ceremony during the month of Spotlight on the Arts.

Proposed schedule for George Snyder Trail ribbon cutting is mid-December.

c) Programming Focus

Planning for events focused more to City residents is in progress. New events include a Fishing Rodeo at Ashby Pond and possibly Daniels Run. Ashby Pond will be stocked with fish for the rodeo and the Department of Natural Resources has tested the water at Ashby Pond to conclude it is ok to conduct fishing. The stocking of fish at the pond will be announced the Thursday or Friday prior to the event. Volunteers will be attending the event to assist in the cleaning and filleting of the fish.

d) FY17 Operating Budget Submittal - Information

Submittal for the FY17 Operating Budget is scheduled for December 4th. Mrs. Salgado will be working with Ms. Johnston in meeting with division supervisors to review budget next week. Submission materials will be shared with PRAB at that time. The proposed operating budget guideline is back on Council agenda for this Thursday.

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board – Robert Reinsel

School Board will be at the School Board Association at the end of next week. The budget process is underway, of which comes to the City at 1.7% of FCPS budget. There are four new school board members, and there was a loss of one member who was not re-elected. Clarification was made that County School Board members serve 4-year terms whereas City School Board members serve 2-year terms.

b) Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski

Reviewing of the zoning rewrite continues. Mr. Brooke Hardin has been giving work sessions on the zoning re-write. Lots comments have been received so they are working to synthesize them. Discussion has started about overhauling the comprehensive plan following the completion of the zoning re-write; it is estimated to be done in the latter part of 2017 and is approximately a 20-month process. Information and updates for the zoning re-write are available on the City’s website. Discussion on whether specific medical uses will be addressed again in the zoning re-write is still unsure.

c) Senior Center – Jane Albro

Planning of holiday parties is underway. Updates to the look continue and the electronic board is soon to be finished.

Congratulations were given to Mrs. Albro on another 3-year appointment on PRAB.

d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley

No report

e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur

No report

f) NVRPA – Brian Knapp

No report

9. Matters of the Members

Evie – Saturday, December 12th will be the Wreaths across America event at the Arlington National Cemetery. The goal this year is to place more than 100,000 wreaths, and anyone is welcome to attend or sponsor a wreath.

Concern has been noted of safety issues in Draper Drive Park where soccer balls roll into the parking lot and create a hazard to children and vehicles. Thank you was given to Parks staff for the quick response on the issue reported.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is December 17, 2015 @ 7 p.m.

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